

**Post Offices in States**

6123. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure to open a branch post offices in rural areas; and

(b) the number of post offices opened in villages of various States during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Branch Post Offices are opened in rural areas keeping in view the target fixed, availability of fund and satisfaction of population, income and distances norms prescribed for the purpose. For the normal rural areas the population norm is 3000 population in a group of villages, income of 33 1/3% of cost and a minimum distance of 3 Kms. from the nearest post office. However, relaxed income and population norms are applicable in the case of hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas, which are minimum anticipated 15% income of the cost and 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages. Further, while departmented sub post offices are expected to be financially self-supporting, a loss upto Rs. 2400/- per annum in the case of normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- per annum in the case to hilly, backward/tribal areas is allowed.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Airlines to Kerala**

6124. SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring Kovalam and Thekkady in Kerala on air map;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to commercial and operational reason it is not possible for Vayudoot or Indian Airlines to airlin any new station at the present juncture.

[Translation]

**Telephone Exchanges in Darbhanga, Bihar**

6126. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the years of establishment, capacity and the number of the telephone exchanges at present in Darbhanga and Laheria Sarai in Bihar;

(b) whether electronic exchanges are proposed to be started during the year 1992;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Details of exchanges presently working in Darbhanga and Laheria Sarai in Bihar is as following:

Name of exchange	Capacity	Year of Establishment
Darbhangā	900	1966
Lahena Sarai	800	1966

(b) to (d). 2000 lines C-DOT type electronic exchange is proposed to be set up in Darbhanga in 1993-94 which will replace the above two existing old type of exchanges

[English]

**Advertisement of Noodles, Soups and Cola Drinks on Doordarshan**

6127. DR. RMALLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether many products of doubtful nutritional value and posing health hazards such as noodles, soups and cola drinks continue to be advertised on doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRJAVYAS): (a) and (b) Doordarshan only permits the telecast of those advertisements which conform to the laws of the country and more specifically to the code for Commercial advertising on Doordarshan

**Steel Plant in Orissa**

6128. SHRI ANDADICHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a steel plant at Daitari in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). The State Government of Orissa propose to set up a steel plant near Daitari in Orissa. The Government of Orissa has intimated that it has on 1st November, 1991 entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Swaraj Paul of the Caparo Group of United Kingdom to implement this project.

**Food Processing Industries in Assam**

6129. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam to set up food processing industries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHARGOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Three proposals were received from the Assam Poultry and Live stock Corporation Limited through the State Government for financial assistance under the Annual Plan Scheme of this Ministry 1991-92. The details of the proposals as well as the assistance provided in 1991-92 is given in the statement.